

istic spirit. With every soul born into this world comes a divinely altruistic purpose. God, in the working out of his eternal purpose which He has in man, made him to be his loving, faithful servant. Service uplifts, never degrades. "Serving others is serving us." In Christ's name serving others is serving Christ. Thus serving others is serving God.

When man looks longingly Godward, and communes with the Father, his soul receives the divinely painted images of love and beauty. Unhindered by anger, hatred, or vice of any kind, and made brighter by service, these images daily shed upon other lives the divine fragrance of hope, and uplift and inspire to greater attainments in the spiritual life. Souls are the cameras. True service is the only chemical that will develop the imaged qualities.

Faithful Bible Study

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We might as well try to live our natural life without food as our spiritual life without the Word of God. If it is our desire to be strong spiritually we must let the Word of God dwell in us richly. Every Christian has two natures according to Paul's teaching, the nature of the flesh and the nature of the spirit. To live in the flesh is at the cost of the spirit, to live in the spirit is at the cost of the flesh. Nothing so encourages spiritual growth as the right form of Bible study. There are certain characteristics which must mark the devotional approach to the Word of God, and let it ever be remembered that a certain portion of Bible study must be devotional. There are times when critical study is quite in place, but never in the quiet hour with God or in the morning watch.

I remember the story of a blind girl who was presented a Bible with raised letters. She was an operative in a cotton mill and the ends of her fingers were so calloused that she could not read the Bible as blind people ordinarily do. After a while it occurred to her that she could take off the calloused portion of her finger tips and for a single night she could read, then every touch meant pain. Finding that it was impossible for her to continue her study, she made up her mind that she would give the book away to her friend who was blind. Just as she was about giving it up, feeling as if she were parting with her best friend, she raised it to her lips to kiss it good-bye and her lips read the words, "The Gospel according to St. Mark," and so it came to be true that the book that refused to yield its sweetness to the ordinary touch opened at once under the influence of her heart's affection.

First: We must study the Bible itself, not books about the Bible, valuable as they may be in themselves. Nothing must ever be allowed to take the place of the Bible. It is the supreme authority in everything.

Second: There must be some special line of thought pursued. It is well always to

have the morning Bible study cumulative. It is not well to attempt too much of a task, better one verse faithfully studied and appropriated than a whole chapter perfunctorily read.

Third: All Bible study must be in dependence on the Spirit of God, but devotional study especially so. He inspired men to write His Word, He alone can inspire us to read and understand it.

Fourth: All devotional Bible study must be followed by meditation. This is most important because by meditation we make what we read our own. It is to the Word of God what the process of digestion is to the physical life. Meditation is valuable only as we have the Word of God to occupy our thoughts, then it is as a trellis to the vine, and he who knows his Bible will find it possible in every hour when he is alone to let his thoughts quickly turn to heaven and to God. Methods of Bible study are of countless number. It is questionable whether their presentation is of very much value, for what is a successful method with one student fails with another. The following simple suggestions, however may be made:

Study it thru. That is, in your devotional study. Master one verse or one story completely, never leave the presence of God until you know exactly what is meant in this portion of God's Word, take firm hold of it not only, but let it take firm hold of you.

Pray in it. When once the truth has been apprehended never rise from your knees until by an act of your own will that truth becomes a part of your life. This will become more and more easy as the days go by.

Put it down. What God gives to us in the morning watch it would be well for us, boiled down to a sentence, to write on the margin of our Bibles. He will give us one new thought each day and as we come the more to understand Him, the keener will be our appreciation of the things He would speak to us.

Work it out. The lesson learned in the quiet hour with God ought to be translated into human action. The best commentary on the Bible ought to be the Christian and unless our study of God's Word makes us more gentle, more peaceful and more Christ-like it is well nigh valueless.

Pass it on. Give and it shall be given unto you is the principle that always prevails with God, and while it is not possible for us to have a spiritual conversation with every one with whom we may meet, yet there are certain kindred souls with whom we are brought in contact and unto whom we might communicate the things that God has given to us, the result of which will be our own growth in spiritual apprehension and our own enrichment in the knowledge of the gifts of God; while on the contrary, if we selfishly hold on to his spiritual gifts the fountain may dry up and his future gifts be withheld.

Nothing is completely good that is not infinite.—*Phillips Brooks.*

Missions

Chicago Mission

We wish to thank the brethren at Hamlin, Kan., for a box of clothing that recently reached us, marked from that point. It has been judiciously distributed to the needy.

There is still much sickness. The weather for a week past has been extremely cold, until the last two days, and now it is raining, and slush and mud, mingled with ice, expresses physical conditions in Chicago. The religious atmosphere at large has not been far different, as we have heard of no great awakening in the city this winter, the numbers of the churches have made efforts.

Just now the Holiness people are holding a convention, and have made a unique offer, i. e., that if the churches will allow them to send their men into the pulpits, and will not interfere with them, they will pay a thousand dollars to any church where they fail to convert fifteen souls, referees to be appointed to decide the number of converts. This sounds very much like an *entirely worldly project*. Worldly spirit, worldly motive, and altogether so utterly worldly that I fail to see the holiness of the movement. Oh, for the day when men will preach the Gospel in its purity; then the world will not look to the church to present "*spectacles*" to attract. There are thousands in Chicago who would for ten cents profess conversion. Brethren, what we do, let it be in the name of the Lord wholly, and whosoever will come to the Lord that way, will be "holy."

Our mission work is moving along nicely. Last night we had a cottage prayermeeting at Brother Cotilia's. Eleven were present. It was about a mile and a half from the mission. We will aim to have these meetings continued at homes more remote from the mission.

I believe I failed to report the death of Brother Fisk, who died on February 17. He had been sick for several months from a complication of diseases. When the hour of death came, he said he was ready to do the will of the Lord, ready to die or live, which ever would please the Lord. That is a blessed faith to have. He leaves a wife and two daughters to mourn their loss. The funeral was held at their house.

We are looking to Brother Bowman's coming with anticipation of great blessings. Pray for us. The work moves on.

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From the National Capital

Our Visitors—They came from the north, south, east and west, by thousands and tens of thousands. A great event brought these multitudes together. That event has now passed into history. And now we ask, "What does it all amount to?" Well, we shall not attempt to say. But a greater event is coming, and it may not be far distant. By and by is to be the inauguration of one greater and mightier than President McKinley. How